

Seabrook man places youths

at crime scene

Pamela Smart 'shocked' over murder arrests

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

As a shocked Pamela Smart waits to find out whether the three students who comforted her after her husband's death are to blame for his murder, Greg Smart's mother, Judy, says she doesn't know what is true and what isn't.

The three juveniles, arrested June 4 in connection with the May 1 murder of Greg Smart, worked during their free time on a video with Smart. As the school district's media director, her office was located across the Winnacunnet High School parking lot, where the three students attended school.

The three are not being identified because of state laws protecting the identity of juveniles who are arrested. The state is currently attempting to have the three certified to be tried as adults. If they are certified, their names will become public record.

Pamela Smart only had good things to say about the three juveniles in a telephone interview Thursday. She described herself as "doubly SHOCKED, Page 4

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A Seabrook man said Monday he rode May 1 to the Derry home of Greg and Pamela Smart with the three teens charged with Greg Smart's murder.

Ray Fowler of 14 Washington St., Seabrook, said he was in the car when the teens drove to the Smart home the night Greg Smart was murdered, but did not go inside the home. He said he was unaware of what took place in the home until the three suspects told him what they had done inside on the way back to Seabrook.

"I was there," said Fowler. "I wasn't driving. I didn't know anything about it. They told me on the way back."

Fowler did not detail what he said the three suspects told him they did in the Smart house. And he said he did not see how they entered the condominium.

The three juveniles were arrested June 4 for the murder of Greg Smart, 24, who was found at about 10:30 p.m. by his wife, murdered by a single bullet to the head. According to a source close to the investigation, the bullet was shot in an "abnormal" manner.

The state is trying to certify the juveniles, whose identities are protected by state law, as adults, so they can be tried on higher charges. If they qualify as adults, one will face charges of first-degree murder and the other two teens will face SCENE, Page 4

Pamela Smart is 'shocked' over arrests

■ SCENE

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devastated" when Derry Police made the arrests and said she still can't believe they would have been capable of such a conspiracy.

"I don't have enough evidence to make a judgement," she said. "But if you asked me three or four weeks ago about these kids, I would have ranted and raved about how kind and compassionate they are ... I honestly can't think of a bad thing to say about these kids if they're not guilty."

And Judy Smart feels the same about her daughter-in-law. She said she has no reason to believe Pamela Smart was involved in the murder. She said the couple's relationship was trouble-free and happy.

"As far as I know, their relationship was fine," she said Thursday.

Pamela Smart acknowledged, but rejected the circulating rumors started about her involvement in the death. She said she was well-acquainted with two of the three juveniles arrested, but they weren't the only students she knew from the high school.

She identified the students as youths from Project Self-Esteem, a mandatory three-day awareness program for freshman. They had returned in their sophomore year to be facilitators to the incoming ninth-

graders, she said.

She said her relationships with two of the three suspects, who confided in her, were friendlier than a teacher-student relationship because she wasn't their teacher and worked with them when school was out of session.

She said she was friendly with other students too. She challenged anyone to ask students in Winnacunnet or any of the other five schools in the region about her character and she believed they would say she was very nice.

"I'm just a very giving person because I care. I really care," she said. "I think there's something good in everybody and that's what I try to do in my work. That's what I tried to do with those kids is say look, see what you can do."

She dismissed any rumors about her involvement, saying they were "ludicrous."

"These rumors are being spread by 15-year-old kids," she said. "Those rumors don't deserve the time of day from me."

Smart said dealing with her husband's killing was hard enough, but knowing his accused murderers has brought out a whole new set of feelings with which she has had to deal. And although she said she still isn't sure those students committed the crime, if they're found

guilty, she'd find it very hard to accept.

"How do you deal with people who had the audacity to look me in the face and tell me it was going to be OK, hug me, or whatever," she said.

If they did orchestrate the murder, she said, "who wants to know I gave up my time to work with them in an educating capacity? Or as Mrs.----- (one of the mothers of the three arrested teens) said, who wants to know there is a murderer living in your house?"

If the students are convicted, Smart said it would come as an

awakening slap across the face.

"If they did this, I don't know them as half as well as I thought I did," she said.

And that seems to also echo the sentiment of her mother-in-law, who said she always liked her daughter-in-law very much.

"But I get used to one thing happening and I turn the news on and it starts all over again," said Judy Smart, who lives in the same Derry condominium complex where her son and daughter-in-law lived and her son was found murdered.

Suspects are placed at crime scene

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charges of accomplices to first-degree murder.

Both charges are punishable by life in prison without a chance of parole.

Derry Police have not arrested Fowler, but offered to put him in protective custody. Instead, Fowler has moved to Maine, where he stays with relatives, but frequently visits his Seabrook home.

His brother, Robert, said Ray, who is unemployed, refused protective custody because he had to give someone a ride to work the next day.

"All I can say about it is that he was unknowing the whole

time," said Robert Fowler.

Attorney Charles Graham of Newburyport represents Fowler. He said he does not believe the murder came as a result of a botched burglary attempt.

"I have reason to believe this case is more than a burglary attempt been interrupted," said Graham, after he conferred with his client.

This is contrary to Mrs. Smart's theory of a botched burglary she has maintained since the night of the murder. After the murder, she reported jewelry and other items stolen from her home, saying she believed her husband walked in at the wrong time during a burglary.